"MAKE ASSURANCE DOUBLE SURE." See page 13.

JOHN BULL

Vol. XVIII. No. 454. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1915. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

A 061110

For meaning of this No. see page 11. of Cover.

Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them: nought shall make us rue,
If *Britain* to itself do rest but true.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Largest Circulation of any Weekly Journal in the World.

OUR STUPENDOUS FREE INSURANCE (Cover 13s.) If you desire to avoid the necessity of filling up this weekly coupon you may sign the Newsagent's Order Form on page 15, and forward the duplicate to us and you will be *personally insured* during such period as this Insurance scheme remains in force.

SPECIAL NOTE.—If you do not make use of the Newsagent's Form on page 13, fill in this form and carefully retain it. In the event of a claim it must be forwarded to the Editor of "John Bull" within seven days of the date of the accident.

GREAT WAR INSURANCE COUPON.

(Insuring against ALL War Risks, as specified on page 13.)

Name of Insured..... *Address*.....

Age next Birthday.....

NOMINATION FORM.

In the event of my being injured or killed on land within the British Isles, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate first myself, or in the event of my Death:—

Name..... *Address*.....

to receive such sum as may become payable and the terms of the Insurance Scheme set out in "JOHN BULL."

This coupon must be signed by the Insured—or, in the case of children under twelve years of age, by their parents or legal guardians—and is available for London and twelve-mile radius till 9 a.m. Wednesday, February 17, and all other parts of the British Isles till 9 a.m. Thursday, February 18.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production **within seven days of publication** (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following have sent in correct claims:—

JOHN BOYD, c.o. Harley, 13, Hutton Drive, Lenthouse, Glasgow. 050,738. January 23rd.

F. C. ADAMS, 76b, Peckham Road, Camberwell, S.E. 314,059. January 23rd.

ALEXANDER RAMSEY (Junior), 68, High Street, Haddington. 049,736. January 16th.

H. J. DOWNES, 30, St. Fillans Road, Catford, S.E. 254,239. January 23rd.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 6th:—

002035	100619	348360	53883	733812
016389	170546	360041	544519	745678
021286	192043	395103	577110	818445
038026	202437	409167	589586	834701
050799	231392	613894	617650	861968
078199	239409	631863	631474	914324
094294	274202	636732	942883	956412
103651	307827	662004	669684	A000942
120978	316858	688050	698292	A013783
138535	326163	697788	71569	A056941

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published February 17th).

JOHN BULL PEN COUPON. Value 1d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 2/6 and loose 1d. stamp for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a John Bull Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen. Additional Coupons up to 12 from "John Bull" or "Mary Bull," any dates, may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 1d. off the price. You may send 13 Coupons, and P.O. for 1/6 only and loose 1d. stamp for postage. Address Pen Dept., "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C. February 13, 1915.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib

FIRST READ THIS.

If you predict the "Home" Team will win, put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win, put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

John Bull ENTRANCE FORM.

Third Round Cup-Tie Contest.

Matches to be played Saturday, Feb. 20th.

HOME	AWAY	DRAW	HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM
			Manchester C.	v.	Chelsea
			Bradford City	v.	Norwich City
			Southampton	v.	Hull City
			Sheffield W.	v.	Newcastle U.
			Birmingham	v.	Oldham Athletic
			Bol. W. or Millwall	v.	Burnley
			Sheffield United	v.	Bradford
			Queen's P.R.	v.	Everton
			Sunderland	v.	Blackburn Rovers
			W. Bromwich A.	v.	Manchester United
			Bristol City	v.	Wolverhampton W.
			Preston N.E.	v.	Barnsley
			Derby County	v.	Clapton Orient
			Grimsby Town	v.	Stockport County
			Huddersfield T.	v.	Fulham
			Blackpool	v.	The Arsenal
			Gillingham	v.	Southend United
			Cardiff City	v.	Portsmouth
			Northampton	v.	Reading
			Watford	v.	Croydon Common

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page, and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

15 .....

Address .....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

Read Rules Carefully.

NOTE METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

1. We have adopted the following rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win, put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column. The Cup-Tie teams given in Column 1 will remain the "Home" teams, even if some sell choice of ground.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address, in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "John Bull," 23, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Third Round Contest, and send to reach us not later than Friday, February 19th.

3. The sum of £1,500 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results, as published in the "Sporting Life," of all the matches given played to a finish on February 20th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £250 will be paid to the sender of a coupon with one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,500 nor the £250 being won, £100 will be paid to the Competitor sending in the most correct forecasts whatever the number; and £25 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from "Mary Bull." If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £1,500, the £250, or the £100, the "Mary Bull" prize will be awarded to the sender of the next most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £1,500, the £250, the £100, as well as the special £25 mauve coupon prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this contest.

8. Scottish readers may enter.

CONTEST CLOSES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19th.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of Competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must on no account be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H	A	D	TEAMS.	H	A	D	TEAMS.
			Manchester City v. Chelsea				Bristol City v. Wolverhampton W.
			Bradford City v. Norwich City				Preston N.E. v. Barnsley
			Southampton v. Hull City				Derby County v. Clapton Orient
			Sheffield W. v. Newcastle U.				Grimsby Town v. Stockport Cnty
			Birmingham v. Oldham A.				Huddersfield Town v. Fulham
			Bolton W. or Millwall v. Burnley				Blackpool v. The Arsenal
			Sheffield United v. Bradford				Gillingham v. Southend United
			Queen's Park Rangers v. Everton				Cardiff City v. Portsmouth
			Sunderland v. Blackburn Rovers				Northampton v. Reading
			West Bromwich A. v. Manchester U.				Watford v. Croydon C.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XVIII. No. 454. Week ending Saturday, February 13th, 1915. One Penny.

READY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

"BOTTOMLEY'S SECOND BATTLE CRY."

Full Report of Mr. BOTTOMLEY'S GREAT SPEECH at the "JOHN BULL" WAR RALLY at the

1D. ROYAL ALBERT HALL. 1D.

EVERY BRITON SHOULD READ IT.

MAY BE OBTAINED OF ALL NEWSAGENTS AND BOOKSTALLS

Or from the Publishing Dept., "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., 1½d. post free.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Irony!

Funny that it should be the part of the House of Lords to restore to the people the civil rights taken away from them by the Government. What a muddle Party politics *have* got into!

Have You Noticed—

That the official Liberal papers describe the War Pensions Committee as "Mr. Lloyd George's Committee," and that the Tory organs always speak of "Mr. Bonar Law's Committee"—in each case after seeing its report? And they talk of a Party truce!

The Old Game.

So the Prime Minister could not resist the temptation to push some more of his "young men" into the vacant Government posts—or *wouldn't* the Opposition consent to some of their men joining the Ministry? It is a glorious opportunity missed. But perhaps a little later on. We have heard something.

Judicial Changes.

Will those wise writers who are predicting that "Rufus"—we haven't yet got into the way of calling him Lord Reading—is about to replace Lord Haldane on the Woolsack, kindly remember that the Lord Chancellor—"Keeper of the King's Conscience"—must, by law, be a member of the Church of England? What price about Sir John Simon shortly taking high judicial office and Ellis Griffiths becoming a Law Officer? *Won't* Hemmerde be pleased!

A Banker's Innocence.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the London City and Midland Bank, the Chairman, Sir Edward Holden, told the shareholders that last year, when discussing the steady accumulation of gold in Germany, "they did not know that these precautionary measures were in anticipation of a struggle which was so soon to shake the credit of all nations." Who are "they"?

Bravo!

The Army and Navy Pensions and Allowances Committee has done well; and its recommendations will help us considerably in our recruiting campaign. By the way, what do you think of Battersea? See page 7.

Two Views.

In the opinion of the *Cambridge Magazine*—conducted, as all the world knows, by members of the University—"There can be no doubt that next to Lord Kitchener, the most influential person in England to-day is Mr. Horatio Bottomley." On the other hand, the *St. Austell Guardian* thinks that, although we are "able to make a stronger appeal to the popular emotion at this moment than probably any other man in England," it is only "an unintelligent and flamboyant appeal" to the minds of "unbalanced people," and speaks of our "hollow clap-trap" and our "vulgar tirades." So there you are!

Keir Hardie-hood.

By the irony of fate, the man to win first place in the ballot for "private members' motions," as they are called, and which secures a certain hearing, was none other than the one individual whom nobody wants to listen to, and who, if he possessed any sense of decency, would have kept away from the House. Won't some M.P. move, by way of amendment to any resolution Hardie may have the effrontery so table, "to omit all words after the word 'That,' and insert 'this House declines to hear the hon. member for Merthyr Tydvil so long as he continues to make speeches calculated to discredit the country in the eyes of the enemy'"? *We* would.

Party Piffle.

We thought that "truce" would soon break down. Apparently the Party wire-pullers are already tired of it, with the result that the "leaders" are busy "making their position clear." Ye gods, how lacking they are in all sense of humour! Outside their own little camps there isn't a man in the whole country who cares a brass button about their "position." Even the *Evening News* admits that Mr. Party Politics, M.P., was killed stone dead on August 4th last.

Last chance to win our £1,500 Third Round Football Cup Prize. Final coupon.

The *Daily Citizen*.

As a result of the decision of Mr. Justice Warrington, in the case of Bennett *v.* the National Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators, it seems probable that the directors of the *Daily Citizen* will have to reconsider their whereabouts hereabouts. As his Lordship put it, the main object of the newspaper company was the promotion of the interests of a party "which calls itself the Independent Labour Party," and there was nothing which authorised the funds of Bennett's society to be used for such a purpose. Bennett's union is, of course, only one of many, and he is but a single member. Dozens of other societies have been illegally using their funds for supporting the feeble futilities of the *Daily Citizen*, and many of their members have objections equally as strong as the successful plaintiff in this action. As our readers are well aware, we have taken Bennett's view all along. If the working-classes had wanted the *Daily Citizen*, they would have adequately supported it, and there would have been no necessity to back it up by misapplying funds levied for entirely different objects. The *Daily Citizen* has not the remotest chance of feeding itself by its own earnings on present lines, by the directorate who conduct it, and with the limited means at its disposal. We do not believe in forcible feeding, either for women or newspapers, and the sooner the *Daily Citizen* passes away to its long-appointed home the fewer golden sovereigns will pass away with it.

A Cheap Present.

Here are two interesting extracts:—

John Bull, January 30th.

Our desire is to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister by relieving him of the incubus of three colleagues whose presence in the Cabinet must be a source of grave embarrassment to him, and, at the same time, is a positive menace to the best interests of the nation. . . . and *we are going to suggest that their places be taken by three responsible members of the Opposition.*

Evening Standard, February 2nd.

The Prime Minister is now confronted with the responsibility of choosing a successor to Mr. Masterman. . . . *Perhaps we may make a suggestion.* There are several Unionists of the first rank whose services to the Government at such a time as this would strengthen it in the eyes of the country. . . . *We make the Government a present of the suggestion.*

Now, it is very wicked of people to make presents of things which they have appropriated.

Thank You!

Our compliments and thanks to the *Glasgow News*. This from its leading article of February 2nd: "The Party politicians will have to learn, and the sooner the better, that Party politics—as a mere game of Ins and Outs—are not to be quite the same when the war is finished. A tremendous amount of reorganising will require to be done, apart from all Party squabbles, and it is just possible that the country may insist, just for once, upon having a thoroughly representative Business Government. If this is practicable, would it not be most desirable?" We have no hesitation in answering both queries in the affirmative.

Sleepy Southsea.

An officer connected with the Army Ordnance Department tells us that, being in Southsea the other day, and anxious to look up the address of a friend, he called at the Police Station and asked permission to see the local directory. Upon referring to the volume, however, he found it was dated 1911. He was then directed to two sub-police stations, in each of which he found no later edition. Well may he ask: "How do they manage to trace German spies if their directories are four years out of date?" We presume the answer is—they don't.

Sir Edward Grey's Quotation.

It has always been held that Sir Edward Grey is deficient in humour; in our experience of Parliament we never knew him to crack a joke. Judge, then, our surprise when, reading his reply to the German Chancellor on the subject of Belgian neutrality, he charged the Huns with violating it on the lines of the "well-known" Shakespearean paraphrase: "Twice is he armed who hath his quarrel just, but thrice is he who gets his blow in fust." We can imagine the old writers, copyists, and typists of the Foreign Office having a fit when they lighted on such words in the middle of a solemn State document, specially issued through the Press Bureau. It must be about the first time in its history that the Foreign Office has permitted itself to illustrate an argument by a jest. But Sir Edward, if not a humourist, is a shrewd man. Von Bethmann-Hollwegg had given his interview to an American correspondent, and the author of the Shakesperean paraphrase being an American, such an illustration was likely to appeal to the American mind as an apt crystallisation of truth. In any case, Sir Edward has set a precedent, and we anticipate with real pleasure the prospect of seeing the monotonous solemnities of future Departmental documents enlivened by appropriate quotations from Josh Billings and other jokers.

M.P.s at the Front.

Our only object in publishing the following letter, from a Unionist reader, is to put the Libs. and Labs. and Home Rulers on their mettle. Says he, "I was glad to read your paragraph on the number of peers at the front. But since you have contrasted the action of the members of the House of Lords with that of the House of Commons in this matter, will you allow me to point out that the Unionist Party has no need to fear such a comparison? Of 288 Unionist members no less than 140 are either at the front or actively training with the new armies, and, as you know, one has already given his life for his country. Out of 298 Liberal and Labour members only 40, and out of 84 Nationalists only two have as yet responded to the call for men. Unionists have sometimes been attacked for claiming to be the specially patriotic Party; well, the hour of trial has come, and I appeal to JOHN BULL, as a non-Party authority, whether they have not made their claim good." In fairness to the Nationalists, we do not seem to remember many of them of eligible enlistment age—whilst as regards the Libs. and Labs.—well, there *are* a lot of old women amongst them!

O.K. for "Females."

Assurance reaches us from a Post Office official, who sends us printed copies of "Medical Examiners' Report," in respect of men and women candidates nominated for Post Office employment, "that there is no truth in the statement that they are subjected to any unnecessary questions or examination." It is true the Medical Officer has to inquire whether the lady candidate has certain bodily defects, but, contrary to the case of a candidate of the sex which is ours, she is not medically examined, the form being filled in from her own replies, including the measurement of the chest. The Post Office official tells us that he fears the rumours about "unnecessary questions" have arisen "from the pretty general practice of teasing candidates who are about to be examined. I have," says he, "known cases where girls have exaggerated the matter to such an extent as almost to frighten young candidates from attending the Medical Officer." In future, they should take no notice of these horrible rumours, which, apparently, could not be more alarming if the ladies were men who had announced their intention of becoming Freemasons.

To be won this week—£1,500 for a Football Forecast. Final coupon.

A Soldier and a—Swindler.

In an action tried the other day before Mr. Justice Sargant, an investor claimed damages for fraudulent representations against several defendants, of whom Frederick W. Jenkins, company promoter, of 4, Broad Street Place, E.C., was one. His Lordship, in giving judgment for the plaintiff, decided that Jenkins had obtained £3,000 of the plaintiff's money and bills for a number of perfectly worthless items of property; that the evidence of Jenkins at the trial was "shifty and prevaricating in a very high degree," and that he had been trying in a most discreditable way to plant perfectly worthless shares on the plaintiff's mother and brother as well. On another branch of the case, his Lordship decided that Jenkins had also been making fraudulent misrepresentations. This we conceive to be sufficient condemnation of any man to prevent his associating with decent folk; but we find that Jenkins, who appeared during the hearing in uniform, holds a commission in the Territorial Force Reserve, and is attached to the mobilised company of the Chiswick National Reserve. How did he get into it? Who gave him a certificate as to his good moral character, without which he could not have obtained his commission? And what is going to be done about it now? Surely the fraudulent trickster is not to be allowed to wear the King's uniform any longer.

This Way to Germhuny.

When a British ship was at Savona, according to some of the officers writing to us, "a large number of special Germhun railway wagons" were then being loaded with coal, petroleum, and pig-iron, the facts suggesting that these wagons were being sent through to Germhuny and Austria. The only information which could be obtained at the time was that the wagons were there before the War and that the Italians were using them to convey goods to different parts of Switzerland. The officers say they have discharged cargoes in many Italian ports, but this is the first time they ever saw Germhun wagons loading in any one of them. The petroleum came from America, in Italian steamers, and the pig-iron in British steamers from British ports. The ship's officers were at great pains to tabulate and send us a complete list of the wagons, but as the matter was under investigation by the British Ambassador in Rome, and concerned a friendly neutral, we refrain from comment.

Same Old Game.

We mean it is the same old game with a difference. It is not so long ago that we were having a dust-up with the coal crowd about the way in which they were putting up prices. At the slightest excuse up they go with a bound; the ring sees to that, especially in London. First, the colliery owners explain why; then the Coal "Exchange" explains why; then the big wholesale merchant explains why; then the little dealer explains why; and finally, the "Want-coal—Gee-up" man explains why; whereupon everybody prays for a change in the weather and leaves the rest to Providence. If anybody has a friend or relation at the Front and is anxious to send him a special souvenir of a historic occasion, let him forward a gold ring set in coal, coke, or firewood. This will remind him more than anything else of his loved ones at home.

Our Food Supplies.

In dealing with this subject on another page, we have been greatly assisted by Mr. W. H. Behrens, who, although a busy London solicitor, has devoted much time to the study of the agricultural problem; and we are further indebted to Mr. C. W. Fielding, whose recent articles in the *Morning Post* deserve the earnest attention of the Government.

A Good-win.

A few Sundays ago a steamship arrived at Ardrossan, overdue and short of provisions, and the steward sent a boy ashore for a supply of butter and sugar. The lad found Mr. Samuel Goodwin, a grocer, holding a licence for the sale of excisable liquors, and who, after visiting the ship, interviewing the captain and satisfying himself that it would be an "act of mercy" to supply the goods, sent 1 lb. of butter, 14 lbs. of margarine, and 10 lbs. of sugar. But Constables McKean and McPherson observed the boy taking the provisions down to the vessel, with the result that Mr. Goodwin, a business man of forty years' standing, who had never previously been brought before the Court, was charged with the offence of having "sold and given out" the goods "contrary to the terms of the licensed certificate and the Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1903, section 53." Mr. Thomas Guthrie, the Fiscal, said that Mr. Goodwin held his premises under certain conditions, one of which was that he could not open his shop for business, or for the sale of any liquors, or any goods or commodities whatsoever, or sell or give out same on Sunday. After the Magistrates had conferred, the Provost intimated that they found Mr. Goodwin guilty, but there would be no fine and no expenses. Good; but what is to be said of the sagacity of the police in the matter?

Off Pops the Parson.

Quickly has the judgment succeeded the offence. Following our article on "The Starvington Parson"—the Rev. John Clegg, of Girsby, to wit—it has been borne upon that dietetic doctrinaire that he should resign his seat on the Darlington Board of Guardians. Our rev. brother, it will be recalled, thought a widow and three children should be subjected to the compulsory experiment of living on eight shillings a week, and also thought, when it was suggested that he should try a similar experiment himself, that the suggestion was an insult. The rev. brother, who is the Vicar of Girsby and Stockburn, explains that he resigns because he has been anonymously threatened with personal violence. We are sorry this should have happened, even though the threats were merely epistolary and it was not probable that the ink would have been translated into deeds. Evidently, however, so severe an exponent of the simple life for other people must have been severely handicapped by his principles as a member of a Board of Guardians. He ought to be on the Bread Board of Berlin.

"Business" Fighting.

The men of Middlesex have responded nobly to their country's call, and now the War Army Council has sanctioned a scheme, inaugurated by Mr. John Ward, M.P., for obtaining recruits for a body of Public Works Pioneers which will be styled the 18th (Service) Middlesex Battalion. His appeal is directed to married men engaged in the building and engineering trades, the aim being to form a corps of irregular Royal Engineers. As Mr. Ward points out, the campaign has so developed that the pick and shovel are almost as important as the rifle. The men will get an extra twopence a day as "engineer pay," the other terms of service being the same as is customary. Mr. Ward is to be congratulated; he is talking "business" and a word from the "Navvy M.P." will go a long way with the special class of men it is desired to attract to the Colours.

Another Manchester Police Scandal.

The air of Manchester is thick with rumours of another police scandal; and it is said that the Public Prosecutor has the matter in hand. Whatever is wrong, let it be brought into the daylight and dealt with drastically.

Result of our No. 13 Football Contest. Winners on page 31.

OUR SOLEMN WARNING.

PERILOUS POSITION OF OUR FOOD SUPPLIES.—THE ONLY SOLUTION.

In dealing, last week, with the best way of finishing the war, we laid stress upon the duty of the Government to commandeer every available acre of land in the United Kingdom for the purpose of securing a home supply of food for the people. This week we propose to deal with the matter more fully—for, verily, it is vital to our existence as a nation. During the days of peace, politicians and political economists, and other theory-mongers, told us that it was quite safe to rely upon foreign supplies, and assured us that nothing could even interfere with their regular arrival at our ports. More than once did we warn the country against this fallacy. Apart altogether from the economic argument about the exchange of manufactures, etc., for food; and apart from the folly of allowing our countryside population to die out—to be replaced by anæmic clerks and artisans—we foresaw the twofold possibility, given a state of war (which we always declared to be certain to come), first, of our ports being blockaded by submarines, and, secondly, of our present chief sources of supply being cut off by diminished production and ever-increasing native demand. And now the full truth is upon us. As we shall show, we are living in a fool's paradise—and are at the same time neglecting glorious opportunities of regaining our lost agricultural industry, and improving the stamina of our race.

OUR UNIQUE POSITION.

Let us quote the concluding passage of the Report of the Agricultural Committee of the Tariff Commission of 1906:

> The position of the United Kingdom is absolutely exceptional. No other country shows so marked a decline of agriculture; no other country depends to so large an extent upon importations from abroad for its food supply; in no other country has the balance between agriculture and manufacturing industries been so completely disturbed to the disadvantage of agriculture.

Now, as a statement of fact that conclusion is beyond dispute. Whether such a condition of affairs constitutes, as alleged by the Committee, "a menace to national security, and, by restricting the home market, must have a most prejudicial effect upon the general industry of the country," is a bone of contention which, for the moment, we will leave on one side. Our present purpose is of a plain and practical nature. We simply take note of the fact that, according to one school of thought, it would not matter if not an acre of land were cultivated in Great Britain, and that others have contended that whilst this theory might suit the Lancashire and Yorkshire manufacturers, by providing food at the cheapest possible price, so that their workmen might be paid the lowest living wage, it was a short-sighted policy, and would inevitably in the long run be attended by the most disastrous effects. And whilst the two sides have been debating, the ordinary townsman, who cares little and understands less about agriculture, has just jogged on, indifferent to them both, so long as, somehow or other, he got his food at what he was told was the cheapest price. But now we are at war, and we have to get down to rock-bottom facts—and throw theories to the wind. We have to face a gigantic increase of the Army; we have to submit to the artificial protection of our national credit, and to all kinds of other things; but so far no measures have been taken to insure an adequate supply of home-produced food, if by any chance our trade routes are interfered with, or the main sources of our present supplies are stopped or diminished. And in that respect we stand unique in all the world. That our food supply has not yet been interrupted to any material extent is due to one cause only—the preponderance of our Navy; but, even so, prices have for various reasons increased since the outbreak of the war to such an extent that they are only very little short of those subsisting in Germany at the present time, although her foreign trade is completely at a standstill.

AMAZING FIGURES.

For instance, the average price of wheat has reached 55s. per quarter, whilst flour stands at 45s. a sack—an increase of nearly a pound since the outbreak of war. The prices of all other imported articles, such as meat, bacon, poultry, fish and eggs, have increased in proportion, and we may have to look forward to seeing wheat at 75s. a quarter, the price reached during the Crimean War. Sixty years ago we produced within our own borders sufficient to feed nine-tenths of the population; to-day we do not produce more than sufficient to feed more than an eighth—equal to, say, the population of London. In that period over three million acres of our corn-growing lands have been turned into pasture, and poor pasture at that—full of couch, thistles, and other noxious weeds—capable only of maintaining one head of cattle to every three acres of grass. Half a million men have been turned off the land—and the result to-day is that our total bread-producing acreage is only 1¾ million, or about 3 per cent. of our whole cultivated area—including grass—so that we now have to import 30 million quarters of wheat every year, or four-fifths of our whole consumption. We are unique also in this respect—we are the only country in Europe which has allowed its agricultural production to decline contemporaneously with an increase in industrial production. During the past 40 years Germany's manufacturing and other industries have grown by leaps and bounds, but at the same time she has increased her wheat production 25 per cent., whilst Russia's has increased no less than 90 per cent. But it is not only in the production of grain that we are so lamentably behind. The German stock of cattle also has grown by five million head. Pigs have gone up in Germany from 7 to 22 millions; whereas our stock remains at what it was forty years ago—a paltry 4 millions. Yet pigs are one of the most productive and profit-

able of all sources of food supplies. Still, we import an inferior article to the tune of nearly £10,000,000 a year! Then we import over a thousand million eggs every year, and 25 million pounds' worth of butter, to say nothing of cheese and vegetables—so that our bill for foreign food reaches the enormous total of £250,000,000 per annum. And practically the whole of this dependence upon foreign food has developed whilst our population has increased by only about a third since we were almost self-supporting.

The Danger Ahead.

During the year many of the countries from whom we have been drawing our supplies will be unable to send us anything; first, because a large portion of their male workers will be engaged on military service; and, secondly, because the trade routes, such as the Dardanelles, will not be open. Then, too, the crop has failed in both Australia and New Zealand—with the result that they are importing wheat from Argentina. India can send us nothing for several months to come; whilst so far as the western hemisphere is concerned—well, we know Uncle Sam! Even Germany, which has hitherto been a self-supporting country in the way of corn, will be from 25 to 50 million quarters short; whilst France, whose richest wheat lands are at present in the hands of the enemy, will require all she produces, and more. Russia and Rumania will be able to send us nothing. On the other hand, all these countries will be scrambling for oversea production, and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that nearly 100 millions of the poorest people of Europe will be starved, unless we either secure a stock of grain in anticipation, or dole out partial rations for a year.

The Government's Duty.

Surely, in all these circumstances, it is the bounden duty of the Government—if, indeed, it be not too late—to make some effort to cope with the problem; and equally it must be manifest that the first thing to do is to increase our own food production. It is not likely that the farmer will plough up permanent pasture and reconvert it into corn land, even with present prices, if he is not insured against his expenditure, and also against loss by a rapid slump after the termination of the war. At best, he may convert barley fields into wheat. It must be remembered that wheat cannot be grown to pay in this country under a price of 40s. a quarter, and that in the early 'eighties the price fell to as low as 23s. a quarter. What, then, is to be done? One of two things. Either the Government must commandeer every acre of land capable of growing wheat, and run the whole show—in which case Heaven help us!—or it must come to the rescue of the farmers, by means of a bounty. Never mind what the political economists say—*statesmanship* demands it. The war has opened our eyes to many truths—and one of them is that the first condition of national security is the command of an adequate food supply. Steps should have been taken months ago to induce, or, rather, to *compel*, the farmers to alter their usual crops for the coming season. But nothing has been done. We do not suggest that the United Kingdom can produce all the wheat and flour it consumes—that would require eight million acres of wheat crops; but there are hundreds of thousands of acres of good land available. In Essex, for instance, some of the ground to-day produces from three to four times as many bushels to the acre as the best land in Manitoba. What about the cost? it may be asked. Well, suppose it involved an annual expenditure of, say, ten millions. We should increase our annual production by £50,000,000, and at the same time stop the decline of the country population—the backbone of the race and our best recruiting factor in time of war.

Past Mistakes.

After all, agriculture is even to-day, and in present circumstances, the largest trade in Great Britain. What could not it be made if our methods were altered? It is not a question of "protecting" an industry, but of protecting the whole nation, both in and out of war time. We have all been commerce and manufacturing mad in the past, but are now getting a rude awakening. Our aim has been to become the workshop of the world—but workshops are useless unless run by healthy workmen; with an ample and certain supply of food at hand. We are no votaries of any of the Parties, or any of the professional politicians. "Free Trade," "Tariff Reform," and all the rest, are empty, meaningless jargon on our ears; but we do believe that old "Lizzy" was right when years ago he said:—"Believe me, I speak not as your enemy when I say that it will be an exception to the principles which seem hitherto to have ruled society, if you can succeed in maintaining the success at which you aim, without the possession of that permanence and stability which the territorial principle alone can afford. Although your ports may be filled with shipping, your factories smoke on every plain, and your forges flame in every city—I see no reason why you should form an exception to that which the page of history has mournfully recorded."

What Must be Done.

Wherefore we solemnly warn the Government that its first duty is to face the question of increasing the home production of our food supply—whatever the cost, and whatever the violation of Party, political or economic shibboleth. And when the war is over, not only must we continue to support our native agriculture by a permanent and generous bounty; we must also establish national granaries—taking a lesson from the history of Joseph in Egypt. *That* is the only way to secure ourselves against the risk of both war and famine. What a lot this war will teach us to unlearn! Party politics, economic theories, religious platitudes, social conventions, must all go by the board. The "dud" M.P.; the "little" minister; the dude and the demagogue have had their day. And Governments will have to govern—just as a Board of Directors governs and controls any great Joint Stock enterprise. What else, indeed, but a Joint Stock enterprise *is* the State? But hitherto it has had no expert Business management. The directors have divided themselves into two hostile cliques, each doing its best to frustrate the other. Just reflect what such a condition of things would mean in the case of a commercial undertaking—bankruptcy beyond a doubt! Such fooling must cease.

In the name of the people, we have spoken.

THE I. L. P.

IMPUDENT LIE PURVEYORS——A COTERIE OF TRAITORS— SPREADING THE POISON.

By W. Faulkner.

Most people know that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Keir Hardie, and a few other cranks, are opposed to the war, and are trying to prove that Britain forced Germany into it. But few know that there is in this country an organised pro-German campaign.

The enemy organisation is the Independent Labour Party. It will be remembered that this party issued a manifesto against the war, in which Sir Edward Grey and Russia were made responsible for it. The manifesto was quoted in Berlin.

Secret Meetings.

What I find is not generally known, however, is that the I. L. P. has organised a large number of private meetings and conferences on the war. I have a list of over a hundred of such meetings. The object is to explain, privately, to members of the Party, why they should not support the war in any way.

The next method by which the I. L. P. is trying to undermine our position is through the distribution of pro-German and anti-recruiting leaflets. In some towns a house-to-house distribution has been organised. Another method is by articles or lectures attacking our Allies, particularly Russia—the object being to create trouble, if possible, between Britain and Russia. Germany particularly desires this.

A Coterie of Traitors.

Who, then, are the chief inspirers of this campaign? Among the prominent and active persons we find Messrs. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., Keir Hardie, M.P., F. W. Jowett, M.P., and Thomas Richardson, M.P. Other active supporters include Messrs. Bruce Glasier, R. C. Wallhead (prospective Labour candidate for Coventry), W. C. Anderson, Mr. P. J. H. Hudson, M.A. (prospective Labour candidate for Eccles), and Dr. Alfred Salter (prospective Labour candidate for Bermondsey).

The campaign is supported by a number of prominent people who are not members of the I.L.P., or, if they are, have joined since the war began, out of sympathy with its pro-German policy. Among these people I must mention the Hon. Bertrand Russell, F.R.S., "Veron Lee" (Violet Paget, novelist), Mr. E. D. Morel (ex-Liberal candidate for Birkenhead), and Mr. E. G. Jellicoe (ex-Liberal member for the Walton Division of Liverpool). One of the worst of the pro-Germans in this list is Mr. E. G. Jellicoe. His articles, which originally appeared in the *Labour Leader* of October 22nd and 29th, and November 5th, are now, I believe, issued as a leaflet. He tells us that Britain and France did nothing to prevent the war, because the "Government of each nation wanted war." He also assures us that Britain would have violated Belgian neutrality if "necessity" had demanded it, and we ought to have considered the "full nature of the rights which the law of 'necessity' conferred upon both Germany and France." Germany acted illegally by entering Belgium, but "she promised to secure the integrity and independence of Belgium." Mr. Jellicoe, like all the pro-Germans, blames Britain for advising Belgium to resist the German invasion. He suggests, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald makes the same suggestion, that Britain gave this advice to Belgium in order to have a pretext for joining France against Germany. Our defence of Belgium is said to be pure hypocrisy. So Mr. Jellicoe concludes that "as true patriots, for love of our country, and the sake of humanity, we ought, at all events, to bring Britain's part in the war to an end by any and every legitimate means in our power."

I have already referred to private meetings and conferences. Several of them have been held in London. Places such as Norwich, Swansea, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow have also been favoured with these pro-German conferences.

Spreading the Poison.

Certain parts of the country are, apparently, centres of pro-German activity. For instance, London, Norwich, Glasgow, Birmingham, Bristol, South Wales and North East Lancashire. Many meetings and conferences have been held in Scotland and South Wales. The resolutions on the agenda of the Scottish I. L. P. Conference were sufficient to justify the Glasgow police in expecting to hear seditious speeches. Mr. Keir Hardie, who was announced to speak at the Conference, stated at Blackburn on November 29th that the I. L. P. would not allow the Allies to crush the German people. The Glasgow police perhaps expected Mr. Hardie to tell the delegates to the conference what steps the I. L. P. was going to take to save Germany.

This pro-German campaign has been particularly directed against recruiting. The success of recruiting is almost as painful to the I. L. P. as it is to the Kaiser. The bitter opposition to recruiting was shown very clearly at the Conference in Glasgow. The Maryhill branch proposed that the members of the I. L. P. who have supported recruiting should be expelled from the Party. The *Daily News* says that the proposal received a good deal of support. This resolution was too extreme, especially with the police keeping an eye on the delegates; so it was amended, and the members of the I. L. P. now supporting recruiting were requested "not to assist the Government's recruiting campaign." Several Labour M.P.s have been threatened with the loss of official support at the next election if they do not stop speaking at recruiting meetings.

Scurrilous Sedition.

Another feature of this pro-German propaganda is the distribution of literature. Several hundred thousands of leaflets against the war and recruiting have been distributed. The National Council of the Party advised the branches to see that every house in the country received this literature. On several occasions the German papers have referred to this work of the I. L. P., and the Germans are quite pleased with the energetic way in which it has attacked the Allies. *Vorwaerts* says that "the I. L. P. has continued fearlessly and untiringly its peace propaganda based on its standing principles. It has protested against the participation of the Labour Party in the recruiting campaign. It has not deemed it its task to proclaim to all the world the responsibility of Germany for the present universal catastrophe, but has found its work in revealing the share of its own Government in the awful crime. No word of reproach against Germany, her Government, and her nation came from their lips, but all the more persistently and energetically did it speak of Russian despotism, and of British treachery in Persia and Egypt."

The I. L. P. is doing the rough and dirty work for people who cannot conveniently expose themselves just now. It is these people that we must keep under observation when Germany begins to feel the pressure of the Allies upon her.

BATTERSEA, BURNS AND BOTTOMLEY.

THE MAYOR APPEALS TO US TO COME TO THE RESCUE.

Battersea, the constituency with the Silent Member, does not mean to be behind other metropolitan boroughs in the matter of recruiting. It is, however, severely handicapped by the attitude of its M.P., Mr. John Burns, who has, to speak plainly, been a source of some embarrassment to it for a long while past. Evidently he has something on his mind—for long prior to the war his constituents were puzzled at his "loud silence." Nothing would induce him to hold a public meeting—and people began to whisper that all was not well in his relations with the Government. Some said he was growing tired of official life, and that, seeing the muddle into which Keir Hardie and Ramsay Macdonald were getting the Labour Party, he had ideas about assuming its leadership and becoming the Tribune of the People. Still he spake not. And then came the war, when, without explanation or protest, John simply glided away—relinquishing lucrative office, and thus confounding those who thought that he would swallow any political scruples rather than do that. Since then all has been mystery. But the situation has had a depressing influence—and recruiting has naturally suffered. The Mayor of Battersea, however, knows no politics—and having decided to hold a public meeting with the object of stimulating enlistment, he—in accordance with precedent and convention—appealed to the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee for assistance. And now let him tell his own story. Writing us, under date of February 2nd, this is what he says:—

A Recruiting Committee has been formed for Battersea, and as a first step they proposed to hold a Town's meeting to work up more enthusiasm in the Borough.

As you are doubtless aware, the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee have been made responsible for providing speakers for such meetings, and the Borough Committee approached that Committee accordingly. They selected certain Members of Parliament, who were doubtless capable speakers, but who were not well known in the Borough, and were therefore not likely to attract the audience required. There is a feeling that unless the Town's meeting is likely to be an enthusiastic one, it would be better not to hold it, and the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee were so informed, and asked to select speakers better known in the Borough. The Parliamentary Committee now state that they think it would be advisable to abandon the proposed meeting, as LATER ON *they will be carrying on a recruiting campaign on a very extensive scale in London, when Battersea will, of course, be included.*

The Borough Committee gather that the Recruiting Authorities are of opinion that if an enthusiastic Town's meeting were held VERY SHORTLY *in Battersea it would materially assist recruiting, and that they are under the impression that the Borough Committee are not getting the assistance from the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee that they have a right to expect. The Borough Committee have therefore decided to endeavour to arrange a meeting independently of that Committee. The Borough Committee are aware of the splendid work which you are now doing for the movement, and they know that if they could secure you as a speaker the success of the meeting would be assured, ... They are convinced that if you knew you could do some good in Battersea for the cause you have at heart, you would do it if at all possible.*

It is an old story. The Committee is as dead as mutton—and *we* are having to do its work. Just imagine an active Recruiting Campaign "later on"! Of course, we have come to the rescue—but we shall not mention the date. We do not want any more Albert Hall crowds, and this is to be a Battersea meeting.

THE CALL TO THE "EMPIRE."

THE IMPRESSIONS OF AN ENGLISHMAN.

To be quite candid, the effect upon one's mind of the gatherings at the Empire, coming so soon after the great Demonstration at the Albert Hall, was amazing—bewildering. After having listened in the greater building to an address which reached the loftiest heights of oratory, and which concluded with a peroration sublime in its religious simplicity, one asked oneself, how will it be possible for even this extraordinary man to catch the ear of an audience so utterly unlike that which crammed the Albert Hall, and would have filled it had it been thrice as big as it is. The atmosphere of the South Kensington crowd was one of patriotic enthusiasm, but how could such an atmosphere be created in a building devoted to the lighter forms of entertainment, from which everything tending to induce a feeling of sadness is ordinarily and rightly excluded? It did not seem possible that the same speaker who had enthralled that vast crowd at a serious meeting, called to consider a question of the gravest and saddest character, would be able to interrupt a light, cheery and musical entertainment, and interest in the same sad and glorious theme an audience bent on pleasure and amusement. The idea seemed so incongruous, so impracticable. Many said he had overshot the mark; he would fail this time. Albert Hall and the Empire were wide as the poles asunder; and the man did not breathe who could appeal successfully to such divergent elements. A great poet like Milton could write L'Allegro and Il Penseroso; but to stir the hearts and souls of men by words addressed to such opposite types of listeners was a far harder task, and Horatio Bottomley would fail. But he did not! On the contrary, when he finished his speech of half-an-hour's length there was not a human being in that theatre who would not cheerfully have foregone the musical entertainment for the still greater pleasure of listening to that most musical of all musical instruments, an eloquent human voice. How was it done? The theatre was filled with an audience embracing all sorts and conditions of men, but who frequent such places mainly for the purpose of indulging in a hearty laugh and forgetting for the moment the more serious aspects of life. But they, too, came under the spell of the magician. After a few happy phrases by way of introduction, he plunged into the middle of the great subject he had come to speak upon. He reminded his listeners that nearly all the light-hearted young men who had been the patrons of the promenade had, at the call of their country, scorned delights and lived laborious days in the trenches, where many had given their lives in defence of the Motherland. From this minute the triumph of the orator was assured. He had touched their hearts, kindled their sympathies, and made them feel the kinship of the Anglo-Saxon race. And when he concluded a most earnest and eloquent appeal to their patriotism by quoting the refrain of the song, "Land of hope and glory," there were many eyes which were dimmed with tears as they thought of those who in this life they would never see again. Now what is the secret of it all? It may be summed up in one word—Sincerity. If any came to scoff they remained to pray. The enthusiasm—the God within—killed at their birth any gibes and flouts and sneers with which their minds were possessed as they came into the theatre. The higher nature spoke to the conscience of all alike—believers and scoffers were carried off their feet, and those who came to enjoy a laugh at the expense of a great public man left the theatre not sadder, but wiser, happier men.

And so it was, every night during that wonderful week.

Turn to page ii. of cover for the "John Bull" Pen coupon.

THE MILK RAMP.

PRICE RAISED BY ORGANISED CONSPIRACY.

We knew what was going to happen. With the coalmen and the breadmen forcing up prices as fast as they could, it was not likely that the milkmen would long consent to be left out in the cold. So they began to prepare the way through the press. Paragraphs for days on end appeared announcing that the price of milk would probably go up, why it would probably go up, and finally that it certainly would go up. There were pathetic newspaper interviews with the milkmen. These poor fellows were sorry, but they could stand the strain of the milk trade at present price no longer. Milk had been bringing them to ruin for years. Really and truly, what with one thing and what with another, an extra ha'penny a quart would save the situation. The wonder is they did not make it a penny while they were about it. It seems a pity to shed all that bunkum for a ha'penny.

THE MILKMAN'S MANŒUVRE.

What are the facts? The facts are that the rise in the price of milk was artificially engineered, so far at any rate as London is concerned, from the offices of the Metropolitan Dairymen's Society, Bedford Street, Strand. We do not know whether the Secretary who signs the document before us inspired the machinations, or whether he is the instrument of an imperious executive. At any rate, as the official of this inglorious company of milkmen, he sent out a private circular, in which he gives away the whole show. "Dear Sir," he says, "As you are probably aware efforts have been recently made to get the retail dairymen in London to come to a definite decision regarding the raising of the price of milk, and I am pleased to inform you that at a representative meeting of the Wholesale and Retail Dairy Companies and Dairymen held at these offices on Monday, February 1st, it was unanimously decided to increase the price of milk one halfpenny per quart. . . ." And then the genial Secretary goes on to say that the Committee of the Society have had the benefit of the views of many of the largest buyers of milk, and "they are unanimously of opinion that the farmers' prices are bound to increase in the future," wherefore it is desirable "in the interests of the whole trade to at once co-operate and assist in putting up the price to the public and maintain it throughout the whole of the summer." Finally, our light-hearted friend winds up his epistle, according to the Society of Metropolitan milkmen, with the heartrending words, "Now is your chance; do not on any account miss the opportunity of getting a fair return for your labour."

A CURIOUS CIRCULAR.

Nor is this all. The Secretary is evidently not a man who does things by halves. His motto is "Thorough." He encloses in his epistle a "Copy of Suggested Circular to be sent to Customers," with a "Special Note" intimating that "You are requested to send this at once to your printer . . . and issue same to your customers by Friday next." Judging by the remarkable unanimity with which the price of milk was put up in London, we imagine that this circular was printed and sent out to customers accordingly. "Dear Sir or Madame," said this screed, with a touch worthy of Uriah Heap at his best, "we beg respectfully to intimate that the price of milk will be advanced one halfpenny per quart from Sunday next. We much regret that this step should have proved inevitable after the strenuous efforts and considerable financial sacrifices which have been made to avoid any change in the price of milk under existing circumstances. The shortage of labour, both on the farm and in town, the high price of feeding stuffs and other difficulties experienced, both in production and delivery, make this course necessary if a sufficient supply of milk is to be maintained." There, beginning and end, is the whole imposition, surely as impudent as it is glaring. It is seen to be not only a conspiracy to increase the price of milk, but to maintain the increase in all circumstances. "Put up the price of milk to the public and maintain it throughout the whole of the summer." These are the words. It is your money the conspirators want, and they intend to get it by fair means or foul.

POLLARD'S PROTEST.

PRO-GERMAN'S PACIFIC PROPOSALS.

We don't know whether George Pollard, giving an address at 35, Elm Park Avenue, South Tottenham, N.—where however, he does not live—is a German or not, but he appears to be more concerned about the comfort and convenience of the German people than the interests of Great Britain and our Allies. He is sending round to the secretaries of working-men's organisations what he calls a "Draft for Leaflet suggested by George Pollard," in which an appeal is made against the attack by the British Government upon the foreign trade of Germany. "This attack," he says, "is shown most conspicuously by the holding up of the German merchant vessels and the blockading of German ports by the British Navy. . . . Are we, British working men and women, content to remain silent while war against the most helpless of our German comrades is being carried on in our name?" In short, George Pollard is either a German, a Germanophile, or he has a bee in his bonnet. We will take the last and most charitable view. He is labouring under the delusion that we are only fighting the German Government and its mighty military machine, and that meantime perfect amity and the spirit of brotherhood exists between the working classes of both Empires. If he were to spend a few days in Germany amongst people of his own class he would alter his opinion. He would find the whole populace seething with a sort of insane rage against Britain—a form of mad hatred which is impossible to the British character. In the circumstances, it would be impossible for our Government to wage this war in a more humane spirit. All that our Navy is doing in the way of arresting German vessels and blockading German ports Germany would be only too glad to do—and more. Given the chance, she has not hesitated to torpedo peaceful British merchantmen, and even neutral vessels bound for our ports. She has not scrupled to make the most dastardly attack upon a hospital ship—no barbarity is too awful or too cowardly for her; she has run amok. In view of these incontrovertible facts, such crusades as George Pollard's are mischievous, and, if in any way effectual, can only be so in prolonging the war and increasing the miseries of the working classes of all the countries engaged in hostilities. We, therefore, recommend the authorities to keep an eye on this gentleman, and to give him a hint that his peace propaganda is ill-timed. We have too much confidence in the inherent good sense of the British workingman to fear that Pollard's hysterical nonsense will have any effect upon his mind, but we think it well to let him know that we have got our eye on him, and to advise him to select a more fitting moment for trying to arouse sickly sentiment on behalf of our alien foes, who would gladly inflict upon us all the miseries of Belgium.

BRITISH CONSULS.

OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES WHO HOLD SEALS AND THE POSSESSION OF GOVERNMENT PRIVATE CODES.

Amapala (Honduras), R. Motz.
Brazil (Bahia), E. M. de Garston.
Berne (Switzerland), Gaston de Muralt.
Bremen—Carl E. Scholl.
Budapest—Wilhelm G. Max Muller, C.B., M.V.O. (Con. Genl.).
Dusseldorf—Dr. F. P. Koenig (Consul-General).
Foochow—E. T. C. Werner.
German S.W. Africa—Ernst Heinrich Wilhelm Muller.
Maassluis (Netherlands)—G. Dirkzwager.
Mannheim—Paul Landenburg.
Nuremberg—Sigismund Ehrenbacher.
Guatemala—Hugo Fleischmann.
Savona (Italy)—Salvatore Guattari.
Seriphos (Greece)—G. Grohmann.
Swatow (China)—G. Demetrius Pitzipios.
Zurich—Sir H. Angst, K.C.M.G.

Oh, for a Business Government!

"Bullets"—[illegible] Competition with most prizes.

A SANCTIMONIOUS SCOUNDREL.

AN EVIL-SMELLING "SHINING LIGHT" AT SOUTHAMPTON

Messrs. Plummer, Roddis, Ltd., General and Fancy Drapers, are large advertisers in the newspapers, and own many branches. One is at Southampton, and Lewis Hay is the resident director. Last autumn a girl under 17 years of age obtained a situation as nurse in Mr. Hay's household. Very shortly afterwards her employer made certain overtures, which she repulsed. He then kissed her by force, and endeavoured to assault her criminally, but happily did not succeed. She at once informed her mother of what had occurred, and the Hays were told that she would leave their service at once. Her father and mother brought her face to face with the culprit, who did not deny the allegation, but pleaded that his victim was "pretty," and he "a very passionate man." He appealed to the father to settle the case, but he refused to discuss such a thing, and at once laid information.

AN "ENGLISHMAN'S" LOVE LETTER.

Process was granted, and the hearing fixed for December 23rd. A few days before that date Hay made a further appeal to the father, this time in the following letter, dated the 19th December :—

> Xmas is approaching, and this year, above all others, there should be goodwill between all Englishmen. So far as I know there is no man or woman who bears me ill-will outside your household. Is there anything I can do that would make it possible for us to shake hands with amity and mutual respect, if so, let me know or come and see me in my office here—any time that suits you I will make convenient, except Monday, when I must be in London.

The father did not respond to the invitation, and the matter duly came before the Magistrates. At the hearing, Hay had the unspeakable effrontry to suggest that the girl had brought the charge because she wished to cover up improper conduct on her part with someone else. Happily, the Bench were not to be bamboozled by this detestable scoundrel, and imposed a penalty of 40s. or one month's imprisonment. The smallness of the fine is explained by the fact that, having secured a conviction on the charge of forcibly kissing the girl, the father did not feel it necessary to press the other and graver allegation; but he protested most vehemently against the totally unfounded suggestion made against his daughter's honour, and pressed for permission to bring proof of its falsity. The Magistrates were, of course, precluded from going into the matter; but by their decision affirmed their entire disbelief in Hay's villainous insinuation.

We have mentioned that Messrs. Plummer, Roddis, Ltd., are large advertisers in the Press. Possibly the fact that no report of the police-court proceedings appeared in any of the local journals is due to a desire to "keep in" with such good customers.

HOW HAY CAN BE "DELIVERED FROM TEMPTATION."

If Hay had been merely a director of the Company, the affair would have been sufficiently shocking to merit exposure; but when we find that he controls a large staff of young girls in the business, and is recognised as a shining light in religious circles at Southampton, occupying a Wesleyan Methodist pulpit at Wimpson, and addressing members of the Girls' Guild there, it may well be asked whether he will now be permitted to retain posts which may enable him to repeat the offences of which he has been guilty, and where his presence is an outrage on God and man. He intended some time ago to submit himself as a candidate for a seat on the Borough Council, and we trust that our exposure of his real character is in time to prevent him imposing his presence upon the members. We understand also that he sits on the Southampton Chamber of Commerce, but we feel that his colleagues will know how to deal with him.

Hay has resided in Southampton for some five years, having before been engaged at the Hastings Branch of Messrs. Plummer, Roddis, Ltd., and it would be interesting to learn the reason for his transference. At any rate, his conduct in the particular case to which we have referred is sufficient to stamp him as a sanctimonious scoundrel who should be outlawed by every respectable member of the community.

ON THE STUMP FOR THE PUMP.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY AT A PUMPURITAN CONFERENCE.

As we have said ever since the Temporary Restrictions Act was passed, the Pumpuritans are leaving no stone unturned to make the "temporary" restrictions permanent. They have now drawn Sir Victor Horsley into the sphere of their propagandist activities. That distinguished advocate of vivisection is to take the chair at a National Conference, whereat "the Government will be urged to enforce as the uniform hours during which public houses throughout the country should be open, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m." Meanwhile, there has appeared on the festive scene, under the auspices of this pop-and-pump brigade, a tract entitled "The War: Start Thinking, Stop Drinking," wherein the populace are informed that in 1913 the country's expenditure on drink was £166,000,000—they have been telling such a story for years—on bread £80,000,000, and on the Army and Navy £74,000,000. These statistics do not alarm us. Considering that there are now something like 46,000,000 of us, £166,000,000 on drink per year strikes us as rather conclusive proof of our temperance practices as a nation; and, as man cannot live on bread alone, but occasionally eats cake, meat, pie, and pudding, £80,000,000 worth of bread per annum proves to us that the £166,000,000 the noble Briton spends on drink does not put him off his food. As for the £74,000,000 he spends on the Army and Navy, the pumpuritans contribute very little to it, so they cannot grumble; if it depended on them, there would not be enough Army and Navy in this country to ward off a regiment of German professors.

These cranks seem unable to comprehend that a temperate man is as much entitled to his beer or whisky, within reasonable hours, as a pumpuritan is to his milk or cocoa. Such, at any rate, is the opinion of the great majority of people in this country.

A LABOUR OF "LOVE."

ALIEN ENEMY'S PLANS FOR OUR DEFENCE.

One of the clauses in the contracts given out by the Government, since the war, stipulates that they may be determined—

> if the contractor shall have admitted to the works foreigners or other persons reasonably suspected of being in communication with foreigners and if such admission shall in the opinion of the Director of Works be prejudicial to the interests of the State.

We would draw the attention of the authorities to the position in which a firm of Government contractors have placed themselves. They are constructional engineers, and have had in their employ for some years a German draughtsman. They deliberately retained, and are still retaining, his services in that capacity. For some months past this man has been employed at their works on a set of drawings and plans of an existing East Coast aerial station, which was sent by the Admiralty to the firm to enable them to tender for the erection of some new aerial sheds in the vicinity. This German has actually designed the buildings and furnished the estimates of cost for their erection—in fact, he is entirely responsible for everything connected with the matter. On information to this effect being conveyed to the Admiralty the man was "removed" from the works—but *only to be employed in his home in connection with the same job.* Plans, drawings, and other material are being continually conveyed to his house from the works and back again, and he has also obtained, in this way, access to plans indicating where certain sheds are to be built for us at Boulogne. And, lastly, this man is keeping up communication with friends in Germany *via* Holland, and has by these means received news lately of the death of his brother, who was fighting against us. Surely a scandal of such magnitude should be probed to the very bottom.

We commend the matter to the instant attention of Parliament, and are prepared to furnish the names of the contractors and of the employee, together with full particulars of the important work for the defence of this country from aerial attacks on the part of his Fatherland, with the carrying out of which he has been entrusted.

More Big Cash Prizes for the best "Bullets." See page 32.